

Regular Session, 2005

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 27

BY SENATOR MARIONNEAUX

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences upon the death of First Lieutenant Christopher W. Barnett.

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of First Lieutenant Christopher W. Barnett of the United States Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 156th Armor Regiment, 256th Brigade Combat Team.

WHEREAS, it is with the deepest regret and a most profound sorrow that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana hereby extends its condolences to the family of First Lieutenant Barnett upon learning of his tragic death in combat operations while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom; and

WHEREAS, First Lieutenant Barnett was a native of Denham Springs and attended Glen Oaks High School in Baton Rouge before his family relocated to Jacksonville, Florida; and

WHEREAS, First Lieutenant Barnett ultimately returned to Baton Rouge to attend Louisiana State University; and

WHEREAS, First Lieutenant Barnett was a true leader of the highest quality and loved serving in the Louisiana National Guard's Tiger Brigade, he planned to make the United States Army his full time career and intended to join an active duty, regular Army unit after finishing his tour in Iraq as a National Guardsman; and

1 WHEREAS, First Lieutenant Barnett served with great distinction after his
2 deployment to Iraq, making the welfare of his men his primary concern, he suddenly became
3 unique in that he was the first Louisiana serviceman to die in Operation Iraqi Freedom from
4 a Louisiana National Guard unit; and

5 WHEREAS, First Lieutenant Barnett loved his men, the military in general and being
6 a soldier in particular, he lived by duty, honor, bravery and sacrifice, according to his fellow
7 troops and often said his reason for being in Iraq was to make sure his men came home
8 safely, because if he didn't do it, who would; and

9 WHEREAS, back in the United States as busy Christmas shoppers purchased
10 presents for friends and family on December 23, 2004, First Lieutenant Barnett patrolled the
11 deadly streets of Baghdad supporting his men's military operations when he was mortally
12 wounded by an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle by terrorist
13 insurgents; and

14 WHEREAS, First Lieutenant Barnett made the ultimate sacrifice for his country, he
15 will remain forever young in the hearts, minds, and memories of the men he served with, as
16 well as the family that waited for his safe return and now mourns his untimely passing; and

17 WHEREAS, his wife, Amanda, brother, Jim, and mother and father, Judy and Bob
18 Barnett, miss him greatly, their hearts swell with pride when they remember First Lieutenant
19 Barnett as a true patriot, a force for good, a leader of men and a fighter for the oppressed
20 people of Iraq; and

21 WHEREAS, First Lieutenant Barnett, through his actions, embodies all the qualities
22 that this country holds dear and sacred and he stands as a reminder that freedom is never
23 free, but must be paid for with the blood, sweat, and tears of patriots such as he.

24 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
25 does hereby extend its most sincere and deeply felt condolences to the family of First
26 Lieutenant Christopher W. Barnett for his service and sacrifice to his country, state, and all
27 who hold freedom dearly.

28 THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be
29 transmitted to the family of United States Army First Lieutenant Christopher W. Barnett.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Heyward Jeffers.

DIGEST

Expresses condolences upon the death of United States Army National Guard First Lieutenant Christopher W. Barnett.